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The Daily Mississippian

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911



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Find our Twitter poll @thedm_news, and tell us what issues you want the Associated Student Body to address this semester.

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GUESS WHO’S BACK?

After almost 12 years away, Delta Kappa Epsilon hopes to return as a chapter.

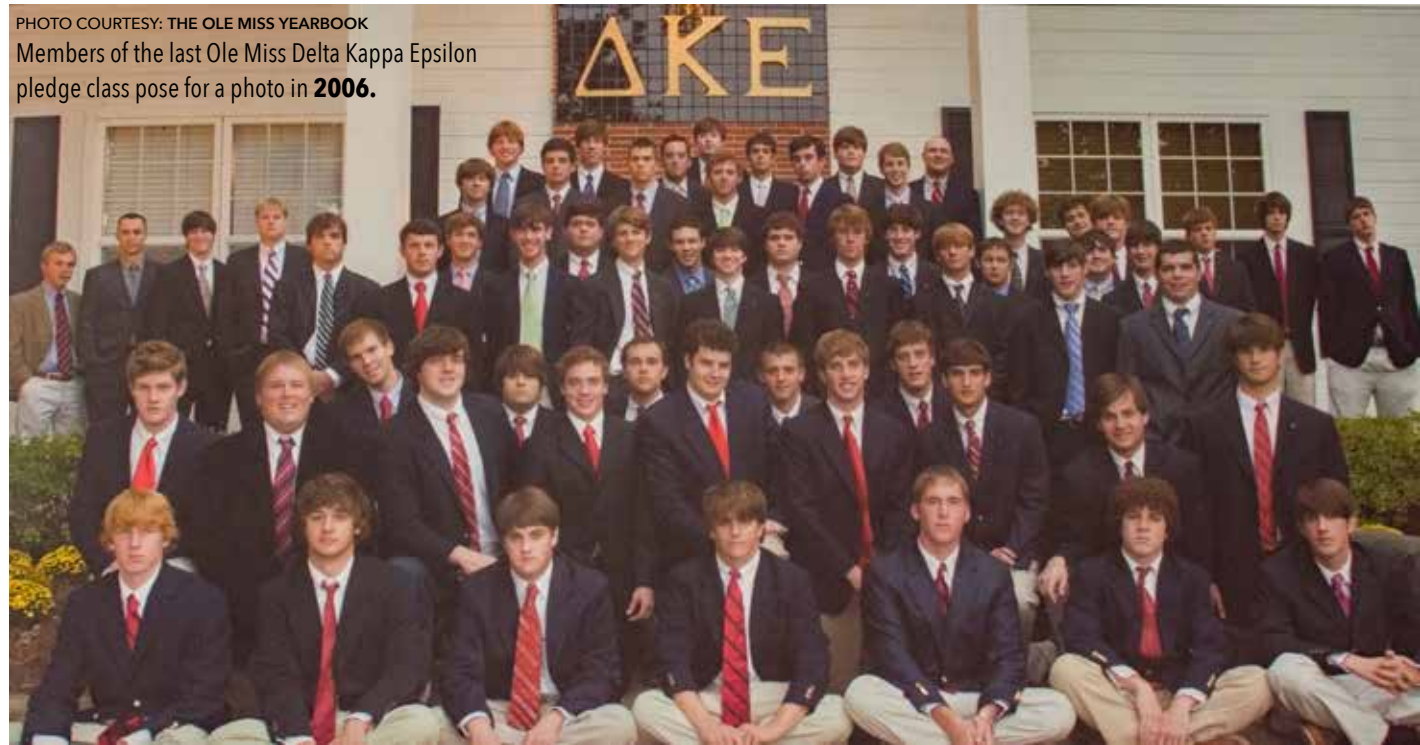


PHOTO COURTESY: THE OLE MISS YEARBOOK
Members of the last Ole Miss Delta Kappa Epsilon pledge class pose for a photo in **2006**.

GRACE MARION
[THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM](#)

Delta Kappa Epsilon has returned to the University of Mississippi as of January 2019, pending approval from national headquarters.

The new DKE colony was established after a group of friends, unsatisfied with their experiences during recruitment and pledgship, decided to reinstate the fraternity.

“Some of us ended up with fraternities. Some of us just dropped (out of) rush because (we) were not interested in the other ones,” current DKE colony president Levi Sumrall said. “I personally went through pledgship, and I felt like there was just something missing.”

Sumrall pledged Delta Psi in fall 2017 but did not complete pledgship or become a formal member of the organization. He said the idea for establishing a new fraternity on campus started as a joke told by sophomore business major Cameron Gatewood in the winter of 2017.

“It sounded crazy at first, but miracles happen. It’s been progressing pretty well,” said Jacob Debouck, a sophomore business major and DKE president-elect for the 2019-2020 school year.

The friends researched fraternities and eventually decided to contact the national headquarters of DKE about becoming a colony, which is a probationary body of a national fraternity or sorority that is recognized by their

university but is waiting approval from national headquarters. The group chose DKE because of their appreciation for the organization’s motto: “Friends from the heart, forever.”

“Six or seven of us met in a kind of off-room in Lamar, not even an actual room, and we just started talking about our plans for wanting to start a fraternity. It kind of took off from there,” Debouck said.

The national headquarters quickly responded to their inquiry and began working with them to establish a colony.

“We’re super excited to be coming back to Ole Miss,” said Craig Dick, DKE national director of chapter services. “We were the first fraternity in the state of Mississippi, so this is one of our recolonizations that we’re most excited about. We’ve been waiting a long time for this. We’ve taken extra time to prepare for this one, too.”

The group’s priorities right now are to expand membership on campus, establish bylaws and look into establishing a

house, according to Debouck.

Currently, the organization is looking into off-campus housing, but they expect to move into a DKE-owned house on campus by fall 2020, according to Dick and Sumrall. Sumrall said the DKE national headquarters currently owns the house that is occupied by Pi Kappa Phi



PHOTOS: GRACE MARION
TOP: DKE President-elect for 2019-2020 Jacob Debouck.
BOTTOM: Current DKE colony president Levi Sumrall.

Student union opening delayed, again

GRANT MCLAUGHLIN
[THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM](#)

The opening date for the renovated Ole Miss Student Union has been delayed again after it was initially projected to be completed earlier this year. The union is now set to open later this semester.

“The design and construction teams, made up of architects, engineers and construction experts, have worked together to minimize delays and keep the quality of the work up to university standards,” said Bradley Baker, director of the Ole Miss Student Union.

The university began construction on the student union in 2015, reopened the food court in August 2017 and plans to relocate offices and organizations like the Ole Miss Bookstore and Associated Student Body offices back to the union upon completion.

“Of course, I wish it could’ve opened sooner so that I could have a longer time to enjoy (it) before I graduate, but I also understand that there are so many factors that are outside of the university’s control,” ASB President Elam Miller said. “I’m thankful for Bradley Baker’s work in making sure the union is perfect for the students here.”

Once complete, the student union will also accommodate the Student Activities Association, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Center for Inclusion and Cross-Cultural Engagement and student study spaces.

The construction was originally set to be complete in early 2019 at the cost of

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COLUMN

Welcome, Interim Chancellor Larry Sparks



FILE PHOTO: XINYI SONG

Larry Sparks was named Interim Chancellor of the University of Mississippi last semester following the resignation of former Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter.



LEVI BEVIS
THEDMOPINION@GMAIL.COM

The University of Mississippi is in an era of change. From new campus buildings like the Student Union, to emerging academic programs such as the Haley Barbour Center for the Study of American Politics and more, few aspects of our campus community are static. Adding to the dynamism, we also have a significant change in the senior leadership in the Lyceum: an interim chancellor.

Hailing from our very own Oxford, Interim Chancellor Larry Sparks graduated from the School of Accountancy at the University of Mississippi-

pi. After receiving his MBA from Mississippi College, he worked in a number of positions around the state before coming back to our university in 1997. He served as the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance immediately prior to his selection as interim chancellor.

His experience, credentials and personal connection to the university make him a wonderful fit for this position. He has also established expectations for himself and the university during his time as interim chancellor via a letter to the Ole Miss community. In this letter, he outlined his commitment to advancing the interests of students, faculty and staff, positioning the university for a successful transition and encouraging students from across the nation and world to join our campus community.

In addition to his experience and stated commitment to creating a better and brighter university, Sparks also brings numerous valu-

able skills and perspectives that will benefit our university. Serving as chancellor is a difficult task at any university, but it is an especially challenging position at the University of Mississippi. An individual in this position must be aware of our current campus climate, be knowledgeable of our long and often dark history and develop a sound plan to enhance educational opportunities for current and future students. In addition, someone in this role must demonstrate a dynamic ability to quickly and effectively address any issues that arise, and our interim chancellor has the qualifications to make him well-suited to accomplish these tasks.

Interim Chancellor Sparks and our university face significant challenges during this time of transitional leadership. It is vital, therefore, that we welcome him into this difficult role and work to support the advancement of our beloved university and community. We can each

play a role in providing more opportunities for everyone by speaking up about campus problems and engaging in meaningful discussion with university leadership regarding potential solutions. In return, we look to the university leadership to listen to our concerns and support us in this time of change.

The torch of leadership has been passed to Interim Chancellor Sparks, and I, for one, am optimistic that he will do his best to push our university to greater heights. While we must hold him to the standard he has set for this transitional administration, we also must take action in our own circles, organizations and personal communities to ensure this standard is met. As world-renowned author J.K. Rowling said, “We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.”

Levi Bevis is a senior Public Policy Leadership major from Florence, Alabama.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be e-mailed to dmletters@olemiss.edu.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



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Veteran author reads first mystery novel at Off Square

LIAM NIEMAN
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Author R. J. Lee has been writing humorous novels about the South for years. But this year, Lee wrote his first mystery novel, “Grand Slam Murders.” He will read from and sign the new book at 5 p.m. tonight at Off Square Books.

The book, which is the beginning of a series called “The Bridge to Death Mysteries,” begins when four widows are found dead at their bridge table, bringing the small, fictional town of Rosalie, Mississippi, its first quadruple homicide.

“Having the four wealthy widows who comprise the Rosalie Bridge Club poisoned together in the opening chapter gets things off to a fast and unique start,” Lee said. “And, as another character in ‘Grand Slam Murders’ observes, ‘If little ole ladies aren’t safe playing cards in their homes, who among us is?’”

With the town in disarray, Wendy Winchester, society reporter for the Rosalie Citizen, emerges as the sleuth intent on solving these women’s murders. Using her own desire to become an investigative reporter, some small town connections with the

police and a willingness to unravel the bridge club’s secrets, Wendy sets out to find the killer.

Mysteries like Lee’s are called “cozy mysteries” or “cozies” and have their roots in the crime fiction of Agatha Christie. Unlike other crime writing, these books downplay sex and violence and, in Lee’s words, “rely more upon the cerebral — suggesting rather than shocking.”

Though “Grand Slam Murders” is Lee’s first foray into mystery writing, this is his 13th published novel. Lee’s other novels were, in his own words, pieces of “humorous, small-town, Southern fiction,” but they’ve had an impact on his mystery writing.

“In writing (other novels), I obtained a lot of experience in creating eccentric and colorful characters, and that is an important element in good mystery writing,” Lee said. “Suspects must draw attention to themselves and be memorable whether they are red herrings or the actual murderers.”

Lee, who was born and raised in the “writer’s laboratory” of Natchez, said that his Southern background has been a major influence on his writing.

“I think I make a conscious effort to reflect aspects of the

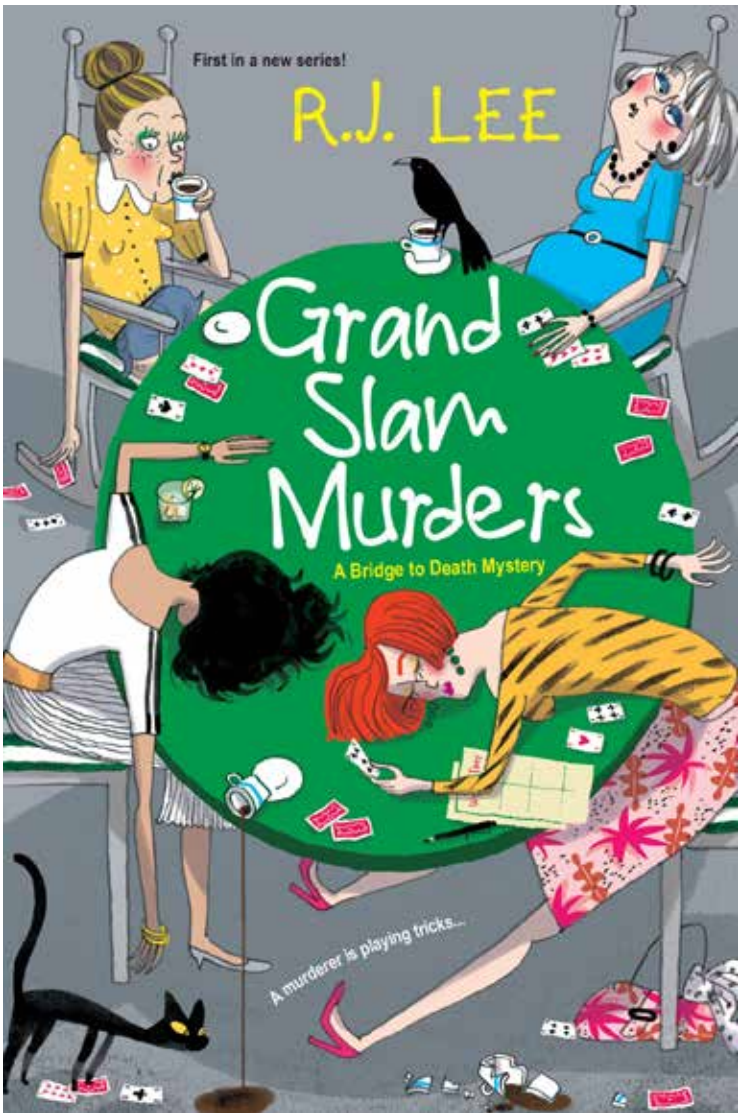


PHOTO COURTESY: AMAZON

South that are realistic, even if that is not always positive. (It makes for a better mystery,” Lee

said. Though Lee’s Southern roots are in Natchez, Sewanee —

where he received his B.A. in English — and New Orleans — where he lived for 30 years — he moved to Oxford in 2006 to support his niece as she studied theatre arts at Ole Miss.

Lee has lived in Oxford ever since, and it was here that he got his first New York agent and contract. He said that the town and university play a role in the backstory of “Grand Slam Murders.”

“My four wealthy widows who are poisoned in the first chapter of ‘Grand Slam Murders’ all went to Ole Miss in the bloom of their youth,” Lee said. “Two were even kicked out for carousing on the roof of their sorority house after drinking gin and waking up Sorority Row by singing ‘Forward, Rebels!’ in the middle of the night.”

Lee said he enjoys living and writing in Oxford, citing both historic authors and current writers, such as Julie Perkins Cantrell, Ace Atkins and Neal White, as parts of the town’s legacy. He said he loves having Square Books in town and looks forward to reading there tonight.

The next book in Lee’s new series, “Playing the Devil,” is set to come out in January of next year.

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BASEBALL

Rebs’ pitching rotation uncertain as season approaches

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With college baseball’s opening day approaching, Ole Miss began spring practice on Friday and is looking to iron out any wrinkles before first pitch.

Possibly the largest uncertainty for the Rebels lies in the pitching rotation. Ole Miss lost weekend starters Ryan Rolison, Brady Feigl and James McArthur to the MLB Draft last summer and will have to work to replace all three before the season gets underway.

Ole Miss head coach Mike Bianco addressed media on Monday and stressed the importance of deciding who will start on the mound each day.

“The biggest thing for the next three weeks is just figuring out the rotation,” Bianco said. “It looks like Will

(Ethridge) will be the Friday night guy, but who’s going to follow him on Saturday and Sunday? What are the roles going to be in the bullpen? Who looks to maybe be that Tuesday-night starter? I think those are things we’re trying to answer over the next few weeks.”

Ethridge, a junior right-hander from Lilburn, Georgia, has limited experience as a Rebel starter and spent most of last season as a middle reliever out of the bullpen. The transition from reliever to starter — or vice versa — is a mental challenge for any pitcher, and Ethridge proved during fall camp that the rule holds true for him.

“Well, this spring will be the first time I’ve been starting since mid-March,” Ethridge said. “I’ve had to find that routine and get back out there and have that laser focus to start



FILE PHOTO: TAYLAR TEEL

Will Ethridge pitches against Arkansas-Pine Bluff last season. Ole Miss won the game 10-3.

the game and possibly go five, six, seven or eight innings.

That’s something I’ve had to figure out on my own this fall.”

According to Ethridge, the biggest difference between the relief role and his newest role is that he will have a large part in determining the beginning momentum of the game.

“Being a starter now, I’m the one that’s setting the tone for the game,” Ethridge said. “I’m going out there, and I have to bring the energy back for the bottom of the first inning for us to go out there and (score) some runs there.”

Although Ethridge is relatively new to a starting role,

his veteran presence could prove to be vital in the Rebels’ clubhouse, especially to the younger arms on the roster.

“I go out there and just lead by example,” Ethridge said. “I find a way to put up zeros on the scoreboard and help the staff out that way. If someone struggles a little bit, (I try to) find something that can help them get back out there and put up some zeros.”

Bianco believes that Ethridge is ready for this role as a permanent weekend starter and has expected Ethridge to reach this point since he stepped on campus.

“Most of the time, you sign

guys to be weekend guys, but sometimes when they get here, they’re not quite ready for that,” Bianco said. “Will got off to a great start, had a great freshman year (and) had a start or two on the weekend for us as a freshman. Last year, I think we just had a really good staff. It was one of those things where he got pushed back to the bullpen, but I don’t think there’s ever been a time where we didn’t think Will would be a weekend guy here.”

Ole Miss begins its 2019 season at home Feb. 15 against Wright State.

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ACROSS

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18 Cry ____ River

19 "Star Trek" captain

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31 Catch

33 Citrus cooler

34 Pig

37 Bio bit

38 Wimbleton unit

39 Chat room chuckle

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43 Inert monatomic gaseous element

45 Affirmative answer

46 Fuel type

47 Kuwaiti bigwig

48 Coptic bishops

51 Sniggler's catch

52 Plait, old-style

53 Ungenerous

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62 Feminine ending

63 Spy org.

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65 Ascended, flower

66 Male child

67 Biblical strongman

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3 Wind dir.

4 Taro

5 Composer Bruckner

6 One telling tales

7 Storage place for weapons

8 Sailing hazards

9 Give it up for a performer?

10 Get by

11 One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"

12 Compass point

13 Capital of Japan

21 Degrees in a right

22 Active

23 Beg

24 Slender

25 Curved letters

29 Bailiwicks

30 Smells

32 Evaluate

33 Acid neutralizer

34 Blackjack request

35 Egg-shaped

36 Style

44 By the day

45 Federal soldier in the

Civil War

46 Deutsch, here

48 The color of honey

49 Game of chance

50 Farm structures

51 Refrain in a children's song

52 Kentucky college

54 Some PX patrons

55 Heaps

59 Mdse.

60 Lance on the bench

61 The French word for "no"

SOLUTION TO 1.28.2019 PUZZLE

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Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com (www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.

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HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

CHALLENGING

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BASEBALL

Caracci, Olenek tabbed as preseason All-Americans

JUSTIN DIAL
THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Ole Miss's junior closer Parker Caracci and senior outfielder Ryan Olenek have been named to preseason All-American teams by Perfect Game and Collegiate Baseball. The accolades come after a season in which the two led Ole Miss to its third SEC Championship in school history and first since 2006.

Olenek was named a third team All-American by Collegiate Baseball. Caracci made Perfect Game's All-American first team, joining Arkansas' Heston Kjerstad as the only other SEC player to make the cut, and Collegiate Baseball's second team.

Caracci is one of two closers on Perfect Game's first team, with Stanford's Jack Little being the other. The selection comes after Caracci's stellar sophomore season, in which he became the Rebels' primary closer following Dallas Woolfolk's midseason departure from the team.

Caracci was Ole Miss's go-to guy to end a game last year, and the team will look to him for more of the same in 2019. He amassed 10 saves and allowed just one home run in his 48.0 innings on the mound. He accomplished all this while also striking out 73 batters and walking just 14 in the process, good for a 5.2 strikeout-to-walk ratio.

After being selected by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 37th round of the 2018 MLB Draft, Caracci opted to return to Ole



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Ole Miss pitcher Parker Caracci closes out the game against Tennessee last season.

Miss for his junior season. In the meantime, he spent time with the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team over the summer. During his time with the National Team, Caracci pitched 9.2 innings and registered an ERA of 0.00.

Olenek received Collegiate Baseball's third-team nod after a First-Team All-SEC campaign in 2018. He was also a finalist for the Ferriss Trophy, which is given annually to the most prolific college baseball player in Mississippi.

Similarly to Caracci, Olenek

returns for his senior season, after being selected in the 17th round of the MLB Draft by the San Francisco Giants, with a couple of Ole Miss records in sight. If he achieves 257 at-bats and 20 doubles in 2019, Olenek will hold the all-time mark in each category. He is also looking to improve upon his team-leading .350 batting average, 83 hits and 18 doubles from a year ago.

With opening day just around the corner, Caracci's ability to maintain his All-American form throughout the season and into



FILE PHOTO: ANDREW LONG

Ole Miss outfielder Ryan Olenek bats during last season's game against Arkansas State University.

the postseason will be something to keep an eye on this year. That, along with Olenek's leadership

and ability to keep a proficient offense motivated for the long season ahead, will be tested.

CLASSIFIEDS INFORMATION

The DEADLINE to place, correct or cancel an ad is 12 p.m. one business day in advance. The Daily Mississippian is published Monday through Friday.

Classified ads must be prepaid. All major credit cards accepted. No refunds on classified ads once published.

The DM reserves the right to refuse ads that appear to offer unrealistic or questionable products or services.

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Questions? Contact Lauren Childers at
662-915-8782 or lchilder@olemiss.edu



Open Forum PUBLIC MEETING



State Route 7 LAFAYETTE COUNTY

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) has scheduled an open forum public meeting to discuss proposed construction of a roundabout at State Route 7 and State Route 9W in Lafayette County. The meeting will take place from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2019, at the Oxford Conference Center, 102 Ed Perry Blvd, Oxford, MS.

Citizens are invited to come and go as they please during the hours of the meeting to view the department's plans and exhibits and to speak to MDOT representatives concerning design, right-of-way acquisition, and environmental issues.

The public is encouraged to attend.

Monday, February 11, 2019
4:00-6:30 p.m.
Oxford Conference Center
102 Ed Perry Blvd, Oxford, MS

Any individual who needs auxiliary aids or special accommodations to attend the meeting should call the MDOT Environmental Division at (601) 359-7920.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rebels to be challenged by Gators' stifling defense

JACK GENTRY
THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

After a remarkable start that included a streak of 10 straight wins, Ole Miss Men's Basketball, 14-5 (4-2), now finds itself in the midst of what is arguably the most crucial week of the season. The Rebels will need to put past performances behind them if they plan on righting the ship in Gainesville, Florida, on Wednesday.

The Rebels have lost three of their last four games, most recently dropping a home matchup to the high-powered, then-No. 24 Iowa State Cyclones 87-73 on Saturday, who sit at No. 20 as of this week. Due to their recent struggles, the Rebels have seen themselves drop out of the top 25 and have fallen to a projected-No. 9 seed in ESPN College Basketball Analyst Joe Lunardi's latest bracket.

"We have to have short memory," head coach Kermit Davis said after the loss to Iowa State. "We have to have good practices. We have to get our team back together and really, really play. We haven't been very good this

week; that's for sure. We'll bounce back."

Florida, 11-8 (3-3), is coming off a 55-50 loss to the Texas Christian University Horned Frogs in the Big 12/SEC Challenge. The Gators' offense is run primarily through senior guard KeVaughn Allen, who leads the team with 12.7 points per game and has scored in double digits in eight consecutive games. Allen is one of just two Gators who are averaging double digits this season. The other is freshman guard Noah Locke, who averages 11.2 points per night.

Ole Miss will rely on its backcourt tandem of Breein Tyree and Terence Davis to put the ball in the basket early and often Wednesday night. Tyree is leading the team with 17.3 points and is followed closely by Davis, who is averaging 15.8. The two are coming off of an underwhelming performance their last time out against Iowa State, a game in which they combined to go just 13 for 36 from the floor.

"I think we have to listen to Coach more and move the ball a lot better," Tyree said. "That's why we were winning



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Iowa State center Marial Shayok blocks Ole Miss center Dominik Olejniczak's layup on Saturday, Jan. 26. Iowa State won the game 87-73.

so many games because a bunch of our field goals were coming off assists."

The Rebels' ability to control the tempo of the game could decide whether they will leave Florida with a victory or not. The two teams have vastly contrasting styles.

Ole Miss enters the contest averaging 78 points per game and will want to push the pace on offense.

Meanwhile, the Gators will look to slow things down and limit possessions. Florida ranks No. 10 nationally in scoring defense, only allowing

its opponents an average of 61.5 points per game.

The Rebels will need to return to Oxford with a win in order to continue chasing LSU and Tennessee, who sit atop the conference with unblemished conference records.

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